THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Government has formulated a new scheme on Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming Systems to address the issues of dryland areas of semi arid and arid regions. Initially, the scheme is to be implemented on pilot basis in 16 districts (4 each in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharasthra and Karnataka) having annual rainfall of < 700 mm and irrigation coverage < 30% of net sown area after its approval.

Cold storages in Andhra Pradesh

1961. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for setting up of cold storages in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storage/Storages of Horticulture Produce" under which 40 cold storage involving 1.97 lakh tonnes additional capacity for horticulture crops have been created in Andhra Pradesh since 1999-2000.

MSP for pulses

1962. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to prescribe minimum support price for pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?